



## Missouri Corn and Soybean July 1 Special Condition Report



Missouri Field Office - 601 Business Loop 70 West, Suite 240 - Columbia, MO 65203  
800-551-1014 - [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

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Contact: Robert Garino

**(Columbia, MO)** The hot and dry weather Missouri has experienced the previous two months this year has caused corn and soybean conditions to rapidly deteriorate. The National Agricultural Statistics Service tracks crop conditions weekly during the growing season for every county in the state. Crops in each county are rated using the five categories excellent, good, fair, poor and very poor. The percentage of acres in the state in each of the categories is published each Monday.

As a way to put this year in a historical perspective, condition data from 1986 through 2012 were compared. This data is available on our website at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For the purpose of comparison, an index was created where the percent of acres assigned to each category for the week was multiplied by a factor as shown in the table at the right. The numbers were then totaled. A total of zero would mean on average the crop is in fair condition. Positive scores mean better than fair on average, with the highest possible total, 200, meaning 100% of crop in the state is in excellent condition. Likewise, a total of a negative 200 (-200), means 100% of the crop in the state is in very poor condition.

Percent of Acreage	Multiplier
Excellent	2
Good	1
Fair	0
Poor	-1
Very Poor	-2

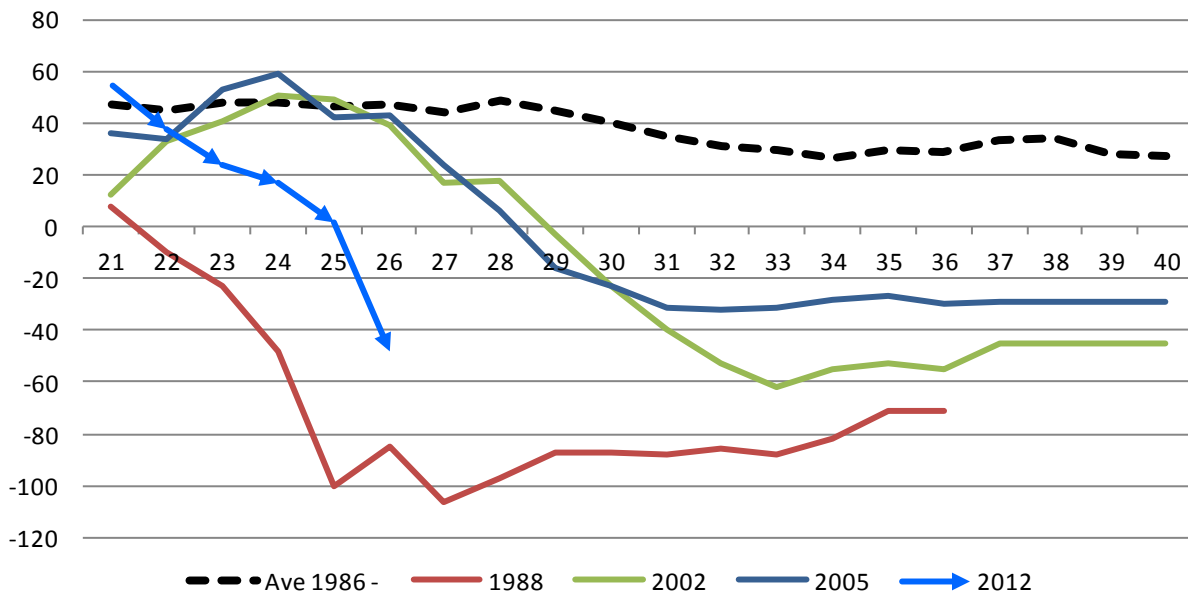
For example, for corn this week, the index score is -48 (shown below). We can compare this number, and the numbers each week, to previous years to get a better idea of how this year compares to previous years. First, the average weekly index score for corn from 1986 through this week is 39. In fact, 83% of the time, the index score is positive.

The chart on the following page compares the corn weekly index so far this year to the average for all years since 1986 and to the only three years since 1986 for which the average index score for the entire season was negative. Those three years were 1988, 2002 and 2005. Note that the chart tracks from week 21 through week 40 except for this year and for 1988 where data is available only through week 38. This is week 26.

Current Corn Condition

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Total
Actual	1	17	34	29	19	100
Index	2	17	0	-29	-38	-48

## Corn Condition Index by Week



This year is the second earliest the index score has been negative, with the 26th week being the first negative score of the year. In 1988, negative index values began in week 22, the earliest of the years under comparison. Also, in 1988, the lowest index value, -106, was recorded in the 27th week of the year when 23% of corn acres were rated fair, 48% poor and 29% very poor.

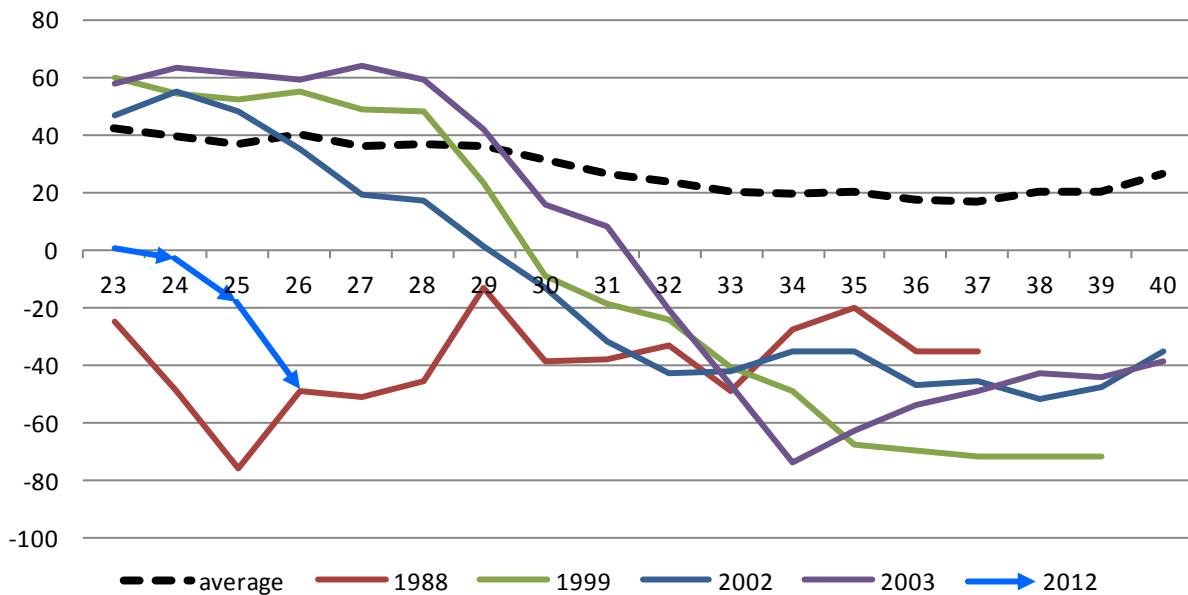
For soybeans, the picture is similar since drought and heat effect all plants. However, the timing of the drought and heat plus differences in corn and soybean planting times, physiology and reproduction allow for differences. For instance, there have been four years that the soybean index was negative, on average, for the entire year: 1988, 1999, 2002 and 2003. This year, the index for soybeans turned negative in week 24, two weeks before corn. The chart on the next page tracks week 23 through week 40, except for the years 1988 and 1999 when data was available only through weeks 37 and 39, respectively.

Like corn the index score for soybeans this week is -48 (shown below). This is the third consecutive week that it has been below zero. The average weekly index score for soybeans from 1986 through this week is 29. For soybeans, the index is positive 83% of time, the same as for corn. The lowest index value for soybeans was -76 in week 25 of 1988 when 3% of the crop was rated good, 34% fair, 47% poor and 15% very poor.

### Current Soy Condition

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Total
Actual	1	17	33	31	18	100
Index	2	17	0	-29	-38	-48

## Soybean Condition Index by Week



For both corn and soybeans, the index was lowest, on average, for the year 1988. That year, the heat and drought began early and remained the entire growing season. The index was negative virtually from emergence to harvest. Until this year, 1988 was the only year in which the index was negative for both crops before late July or early August. Interestingly, planting got off to an early start both years with almost 50% of the corn crop in by the 16th week and about 60 percent of the soybean crop planted by the 20th week.

As of July 1, 2012 corn and soybean conditions are the poorest they have been since 1988. In the period from 1986 to the present, 1988 is the most comparable year to this year in terms of crop conditions. However, corn and soybean conditions in 1988 deteriorated earlier in the season and were at a lower point on July 1 than this year. Weather in the coming weeks and months will determine the ultimate outcome of both crops. However, for corn, being in the silking or pollinating stage over the last few weeks of intense heat and dryness, yield potential has been effected.

*This report is for comparison of corn and soybean crop conditions at this point in the current year, a year in which Missouri is experiencing drought through much of the state, to past years for informational purposes. It is not a statement of official NASS estimates for future crop conditions, yield or production. It is not a prediction that current crop conditions will continue into the future.*